

HOME COMING EDITION

THE BELL RINGER

Montgomery Bell Academy

4001 Harding Road Nashville, TN 37205

28 September 2007

Vol. LXIV, No. 2

Brushes with Fame: Real Students Spotting Real (or Fake) Celebrities

by Brian Swenson
Features Editor

Nashville being one of the main centers of the music industry has its share of celebrities, and they are not shy about going out in public. We can see them in Kroger, Target, J. Alexander's, almost anywhere. It is always a rush to notice someone famous. It makes us feel almost famous, but without having to do anything too hard to achieve that fame. Here are some of the memories of celebrity sightings our fellow students at MBA have had:

Hicks Woolwine has had numerous celebrity sightings, such as meeting Weird Al and the "bass guitar wonder" Victor Wooten.

Chunbum Park met Byung Hyun-lee, whom everyone will recall as a former conductor at the Nashville Symphony, but—alas!—was fired because "Martha Ingram didn't like him."

Barrett Jacques and his sister met Pauley Shore at Bread and Company and then later at the mall. He gave Barrett's sister (and Barrett???) a hug. However, he was of course "trashed" in keeping with his image.

Matt Wieck saw Little Richard giving his bags to a skycap at the airport. Little Richard even tipped the skycap with a \$100 bill!

Bailey Brandon met Bill Frist at the Pancake Pantry, and Bill Frist gave him a coin for some unknown reason.

Brandon Dockery saw Vanilla Ice walking through security at the airport. He describes the sighting like this: "He had a

ton of tattoos, and when he walked through the metal detector, it turned icy." Wow, that is amazing! Also, he says that his brother waited on Jack White from "The White Stripes" and on Vince Gill. Then in typical Dockery fashion, he broke Vince Gill's glass.

Jeff Francis is not cool enough to meet a celebrity himself, but he says that his sister met "Legolas from *The Lord of the Rings*" (a.k.a. Orlando Bloom).

Karl "The Man" Mecklenborg actually lived in the same neighborhood as Carmen Electra (Tara Patrick at the time), when she was a child. Karl challenged me to "beat that! Oh wait—you can't!" Yes, I can, Karl. Read on.

Lastly, Harding McCall, Harrison Stringfellow, Wade Longmire, and Bradford Norton all met a really cool guy, known as "B.S.", "the guy who won the HOBY", and "Jackie Chan." Unfortunately, I could not figure out who he is.



Brandon is shocked to see Vanilla Ice's greeting after spraying graffiti in the airport.



UT Signee Preston Bailey Talks with the *Bell Ringer*

by Curtis Lovelace
Staff Writer

(Preston Bailey has been at MBA since the 7th grade and is one of the most popular and friendliest guys on campus, as well as a very talented football player. He sat with Curtis and answered a few questions recently.)

Curtis Lovelace: The MBA football team looks much improved this year over last year. What are some things that you think have contributed to this success?

Preston Bailey: First, we all decided from the beginning what our goals were and what we had to do in order to accomplish them. During the summer we worked very hard in the weight room and on the field. All of that work brought us very close together, and it shows on the field. Last, we have the BEST coaches in the state that push us hard and prepare us well for every ball game.

CL: What are your feelings about the new OL Coach Counce?

PB: He's a great person and coach. He does the right things to motivate us. The energy that he brings and his work ethic

have just rubbed off on our entire team. We love him.

CL: Now that you've committed to Tennessee, what are some of the main criteria you considered during the decision?

PB: I broke the entire process down into three aspects: academics, characteristics of the coaches and players, and the school/town atmosphere. I tried my best to make it seem as if I was looking at the school as a normal student in order to truly determine if I would go there. Also, I looked at how comfortable my parent's felt about the coaches and the overall atmosphere of the college. Obviously, UT fit all of those things perfectly.

CL: How was your experience with the recruiting process? Expand on phone calls, coach's visits, visiting campuses, etc.

PB: Fun and hectic. The fact that I was getting all of that attention from schools was great in itself. I realize how blessed and fortunate I was to be in that situation, considering how many athletes there are

out there who wish they had the same opportunity. Traveling and seeing different campuses was fun. But eventually the letters, text messages, and e-mails got VERY annoying. I still have piles and piles of letters around my house.

CL: How does it feel now being finished with recruiting?

PB: It feels great to be done with the process. Now my entire focus is on my studies and bringing another state championship to MBA.

CL: Describe your plans for the rest of this season, as well as some plans for the future and college.

PB: For the rest of this season I plan on winning more ball games and winning the Blue Cross bowl in November! For right now, I still plan on playing basketball. After that I will be back in grind mode with working out to prepare myself for the next level.

CL: Thanks, Preston, for sitting and giving the *Bell Ringer* this interview.



Karl with Carmen Electra. How long has she looked like a tall teenage Korean?



THE BELL RINGER

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The staff of The Bell Ringer prepares all copy, headlines, and photographs at Montgomery Bell Academy. Franklin Web Printing in Franklin, Tennessee, prints the paper.

Beyond the Hill: Education Needs Reform

by Aaron Lutkowitz

Staff Writer

In case you missed it, Caitlin Upton, more famously Miss Teen South Carolina, was asked during NBC's Miss Teen America Pageant, "Recent polls have shown 1/5 of Americans can't find the US on a world map. Why do you think this is?" Upton replied, "I personally believe that US Americans are unable to do so because, uh, some people out there in our nation don't have maps, and, uh, I believe that our education like such as in South Africa and, uh, the Iraq everywhere like, such as and I believe that they should, our education over here in the US should help the US, er, should help South Africa and should help the Iraq and the Asian countries, so we will be able to build up our future for our children." She then went on to become the 3rd runner-up. This shows us three important truths: YouTube's ability to entertain, the Miss Teen USA pageant's prioritization of the swimsuit competition over intellectual knowledge, and Upton's own flawed education.

Unfortunately, the rest of America seems to be following suit with Miss Teen South Carolina. Although the average high school GPA increased from 2.7 in 1990 to 3.0 in 2005, "Nearly 40% of high school seniors scored below the basic level on the math test," says a recent article in the *Wall Street Journal*. Reading scores are not much better, as "nearly 1,800 [public] schools are failing to meet their state's new target in reading," asserts the *Christian Science*



"...everywhere, like, such as..."

Monitor. Worse still, as in the Miss Teen USA pageant, states care more about looks than actual knowledge. Under No Child Left Behind laws, schools that perform better on state standardized tests are awarded more funds, but those which perform poorly get fewer funds. The *Washington Post* points out that, "[a state] setting intentionally low test standards allows students to post better results and lets states escape sanctions under the [No Child Left Behind] law." States are letting their students "look" better academically compared with the nation, but the students aren't given the resources to learn.

The public education system in America needs reform immediately. Giving more power to local and state governments and taking it away from the federal government solves many problems. Because No Child Left Behind and other national education programs are flawed, John Cornyn and Jim DeMint believe that, "states should have the option to stay under the No Child Left Behind regime or choose to have the flexibility in policymaking." No Child Left Behind and other national education laws

have put major strains on an already burdened education system. In fact, Cornyn and DeMint state that, "the No Child Left Behind law has added an additional 6.7 million hours of paperwork, recordkeeping, and reporting requirements for state and local authorities." Also, abolishing expensive and ineffective national programs would result in a lower federal tax for American citizens and permit them to pay higher local taxes to improve their own communities.

Another solution for Nashville and other cities is a school voucher program. In a voucher program, low-income families are given funds, either from the government or from charities, to send their children to the private schools of their choice, which they could not otherwise afford. Promising students from the inner city or from poor backgrounds would have the opportunity to go to private institutions, such as MBA. In addition to raising racial and economic diversity at MBA, a voucher program makes "schools have to compete to offer superior services, and, thus, attract students," says Richard Vedder. Private schools must improve to stay in business, but public schools as well must also strive to keep students in their school system before they leave for superior private institutions. Over time, both private and public will become better.

Giving local government more authority and a voucher program may ensure that in the future more than 1/5 of Americans can find America on a world map, and that the 3rd runner up of a Miss Teen USA pageant will be able to form coherent sentences.

Bad Decisions Have Costs: Michael Vick

by Campbell Haynes
Staff Writer

On April 25, 2007, rumors began to surface of unlawful dog fighting activities at Michael Vick's 15 acre house in rural Surry County, Virginia. Eventually, Vick was accused of directly financing the dog fighting operation known as "Bad Newz Kennels", fashioned after the nickname of his childhood housing project. Additionally, Vick is known to have participated in dog fighting and dog executions, as well as facilitated the gambling activities surrounding dog fighting.

Mike was born June 26, 1980 in Newport News, Virginia, to Brenda Vick and Michael Boddie. His childhood was by no means easy or simple-considering his parents were teenagers when he was born and both worked multiple jobs. Also, the housing project where he lived, the Ridley Circle Homes, was notorious for drug-dealing, drive by shootings, and other crimes. Sports, early on, became a way out for Mike.

At age three, he was already being coached to play football by his father. Mike and his cousin, Aaron Brooks, who would later go on to play in the NFL as well, sought refuge from their crime-ridden neighborhood in the local Boys and Girls Club. At Warwick High School in Newport News, Mike was a three year starter, passing for almost 5,000 yards and 45 touchdowns in his career. Once, he ran for six touchdowns and passed for three more in a game. His coach, Tommy Reamon, helped Mike choose between Virginia Tech and Syracuse for college. Wanting to play close to home, Mike choose Virginia Tech.

At Virginia Tech, he would go on to have an illustrious career, leading Virginia Tech to the 2000 Nokia Sugar Bowl, winning the Archie Griffin award as the MVP of College Football, and even placing third in the Heisman Trophy voting. After his redshirt sophomore season, Mike declared himself eligible for the NFL Draft, where he was taken first overall. In the NFL, Mike would lead his team, the Atlanta Falcons, to the playoffs several times. Mike was named to the Pro Bowl three times and finished second in MVP voting in 2004, when he was also the cover boy for Coach John Madden. Prior to the Bad Newz Kennels incident, his career was thought to be at a

turning point, mainly because of a rough 2006 season.

In 2007, Vick had two other questionable incidents: one in which he made an obscene gesture at fans following a game against the New Orleans Saints, and another in which airport security discovered a compartment hidden in a water bottle of Vick's. Although it was suspected that drugs were hidden in the bottle, Vick denied it, claiming it was only jewelry. These incidents, among others, contributed to the outrage surrounding the dog fighting incident.

In July of this year, Vick and three of his friends were charged by federal authorities with felony charges

Continued on p. 9

I'm Right. You're Wrong. Here's Why.

by John Bibb
Staff Writer

On numerous occasions, President Bush has assured us that the war in Iraq is not a quagmire. In fact, he has promised us repeatedly that we can win this war; all we need is more time. Well, Mr. Bush, you're wrong.

Don't get me wrong, I support the troops. I have the highest respect for anyone who would give his time and life for this great country we call the United States of America.

However, I don't support a war backed by misguided intelligence, misguided assumptions, and misguided leadership. In March, 2003 just before the invasion of Iraq, George

Petraeus, can be fixed but "it will be neither quick nor easy."

However, before you write Iraq off as a lost cause, as is common in this increasingly cynical world, take a look at the progress we have made in Iraq. We have eliminated a homicidal dictator guilty of genocide. With the troop surge, we have, according to General Petraeus' report he presented to the Senate this



September, significantly reduced the number of attacks since 2006, and the number of civilian deaths has decreased as well. We have also established a more representative government. We

Petraeus or Betray Us?

Bush, believing Saddam had weapons of mass destruction (WMD's), stated: "The danger is clear: using chemical, biological, or, one day, nuclear weapons obtained with the help of Iraq, the terrorists could fulfill their stated ambitions and kill thousands or hundreds of thousands of innocent people in our country or any other..." The fact remains that Saddam did disarm as he had informed the U.N., and the U.S. moved in on a country under false pretenses.

Why, after the realization that we had all been misled by incorrect intelligence, are we still in Iraq? Many say we remain there for purely economic reasons, specifically oil. A few believe we are trying to help what some call a less "civilized" country "get civilized" (which is an arrogant and ignorant statement in and of itself). Yet others believe that we have accomplished our mission and are merely helping end the civil war between Sunni and Shiite Muslims. The fact is we have created a mess that, according to general

have reduced sectarian violence with the recent troop surge. Additionally, there is a growing rejection of Al Qaeda. Petraeus said, "The tribal rejection of Al Qaeda that started in the Anbar province and helped produce such significant change there has now spread to a number of other locations as well." So, we have made some progress in Iraq.

The truth is we can win this war. However, first one must consider what it means to win. We need to establish a peaceful government, whether it be democracy, monarchy or any other form of government (however, I believe a monarchy would be best). We have given Bush more than four years to win a war that many believed would take one to two.

Yes, Mr. Bush, we can win this war, just not with the strategy that you are currently using. More time is not all we need to win the war. We must focus more on revamping our strategy in order to end this war successfully.



Claudia Crook, Stephanie, and Ryan in "Speed Test"

Thoroughly Modern Millie Thoroughly Delights

by Michael Downing and Alan Schulman
Entertainment Editors



Stephanie and Mary Julia in "How the Other Half Lives"

Harpeth Hall's production of *Thoroughly Modern Millie* may have been the best musical collaboration between MBA and Harpeth Hall in the ten-year history of the joint productions. Director Janet Klocko and choreographer Stephanie Hamilton put together a truly entertaining and fast-paced show which maintained its energy and never slowed.

This play is the perfect vehicle for the talents of one of Harpeth Hall's best-ever performers, Stephanie Rothenberg. She was on stage almost completely throughout the show, taking a break only when our favorite Chinese immigrants, Garrett Anglin and Bennett Davidson, gave her some rest and the audience some laughs. As the eponymous Millie, she sang, she danced, she acted...and she did it all with such superb skill and spirit that her charisma captivated everyone in the audience. Even when alone on the stage, the space was filled with her talent and confidence. It is hard to imagine any other young woman carrying such a role any better. This performance tops her fabulous acting last year in *Guys and Dolls*. Just spectacular.

The real surprise of the show was MBA junior Ryan Penney. With his strong, wide-ranging vocals and solid acting, he turned out to be quite a show-stealer. In his first major role of, we hope, a series of future parts, he played Trevor Graydon with a flair which had everyone laughing and, at the same time, sympathizing for his character. Ryan has a real knack for comedy. Who would have thought???

Sophomore Corbin Williams just keeps getting better. His voice is stronger, fuller, and more agile, and his dancing light and charming. He still needs some work in the upper range. Judging from the screams of the teenage girls in the audience, Corbin has found a fan base which will follow him for the next couple of years. His portrayal of Jimmy Smith, Millie's love interest, was right on target, and everyone was cheering for him. Corbin and Stephanie surpassed any anticipation of their talents.

Mary Julia Bressman appeared born to play Dorothy, with her beautiful soprano voice and stage presence. Grace Douglas was hilarious. The audience loved her double accent

Lifting the show to the next level, though, was the work of the ensemble. Obviously practicing long and diligently, this group of students from both schools tapped and swayed and jumped with a precision and energy seldom seen in a local high school musical. Watching the show on a Friday night and remembering that MBA's football team was playing at the same time, this reviewer's mind had images of MBA students slugging it out with Baylor on the football field while other MBA students were tap-dancing on the stage a couple of miles away. Such images restore our faith in the beauty of mankind. The ensemble reached its heights with "Nuttyscracker Suite" and "Speed Test".

And a word or two about the aforementioned Garrett and Bennett: they were just plain funny. How in the world they mastered their lines of Chinese will remain mysterious, but they certainly re-focused the show every time they carried out their hilarious routine. This must have been especially challenging for Garrett, whose skills in Latin almost never reached the light of day, if they existed at all. He and Bennett provided all the comedic relief a show would need. We want to thank Garrett and Bennett for so many delightful performances over the years. They both have quite a range of acting ability, and the roles they have played will be memorable for a long time.

Of course, as wonderful as the production was and as expertly directed and choreographed and performed as it was, one factor caused this reviewer some dissatisfaction. The show started late!!! The overture did not begin until seven minutes after the announced starting time, and the curtain came up a full twelve minutes after the hour. Inexcusable!!! As if this were not enough, the 15-minute intermission went on for 22 minutes. Good gosh!!! How hard is it to dim the lights at the proper time and get the show going? Fortunately, we had so much fun watching the superb cast dancing and singing that the irksome delays drifted to the back of the mind...until now.

Seniors Make News

by Ian Snyder
Staff Writer

The class of 2008 is off to an amazing start this year. We are finally seniors, and with that title comes responsibility, privileges, and, most importantly, fun. The senior class will be remembered most for what it does this year, whether we are successful at sports, in drama, or in service (hopefully all of the above). That being said, the senior class has already made a huge impact this year at MBA.

In athletics, the football team has been led to a 5-0 record by seniors Preston Bailey, Ben Bartholomew, Andrew Harris, E.J. Vinsang, Christian Waddey, Alfonza Knight, and Swan Burrus. Highlights include Preston's huge stop against Hillsboro on 4th and short, and Ben's touchdown on a short run to solidify the momentum of the game toward MBA.

The golf team is nearing the end of its season. With close matches throughout the season, including a heartbreaking one-stroke loss to Father Ryan, the team looks to have an impressive showing at the regional tournament, with leadership being provided by seniors John Burch, Rob Broadhurst, Daniel Leader, and Jimmy Anderson.

Seniors have also contributed in the arts, with great performances early this year. In Harpeth Hall's very successful production of *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, seniors Garrett Anglin and Bennett Davidson stole the show despite being in only five scenes. As two Chinese immigrants, Bennett and Garrett are an unrivaled comedic team. Seniors Caleb Coker and Worth Baker also provided leadership behind the scenes as prop and stage managers.

The debate program at MBA is going strong under senior leadership this year. Seniors Max Webster, Corey Metzman, Mason Braswell, Alec Martin, Robert Awh, and Micah Lutkowitz all provide incredible experience and skill for the program. Max Webster has taken first in two tournaments so far this year, and these other seniors have reached deep into the final stages of competition as individuals or teams. Overall, the team took first at its last tournament, at Wake Forrest.

Finally, fifteen seniors, Will Adams, Daniel Arteaga, Robert Awh, Austin Branstetter, Curtis Lovelace, Alec Martin, Corey Metzman, Johnny Mishu, John Moynihan, Will Orman, Tyler Ramsden, Taylor Smyth, Max Webster, Robbie Weikert, and Krzysztof Zienkiewicz, have been selected as

National Merit Semi-Finalists. This impressive feat gives them the opportunity to compete for \$34 million in scholarship money.

The senior class has set the tone for the entire year with its recent achievements. In every department the seniors are excelling and succeeding. This year promises to be one that is remembered for quite some time. The senior class is looking to make that a fact through their leadership and hard work. The class of 2008 is ready to take on anything.

Junior Jargon

by Fadi Pulous
Staff Writer

The year is off to a great start for the Juniors. Not only is the class adjusting to new teachers and finding success in the academic realm, but athletically as well, we find juniors leading the way.

The Class of '09 is contributing a vital player to literally every single fall sport. The starting quarterback of our very successful football team is Spencer Wise, who leads this year's horde of juniors to success on the turf. Other popular sports include varsity golf, which is represented by juniors Robert McNeilly and Nicholas Concepcion who tee up on a regular basis for the Big Red team, led by the ever cheerful and sanguine Mr. Kelly. Cross-Country is seeing a pool of talent from the junior class, which seems ready to sip from the championship cup for the Big Red.

The Big Red success doesn't stop on the field, however. After an end to a difficult sophomore year, the junior year is proving to be an uphill battle for us. Occurrences such as a 59 test average for the class on Dr. Clark's tests have shocked several students including Brian "Weaksauce" Swenson, who exclaims on a regular basis that "This is the hardest class I've ever taken." On the other hand, characters such as Leland "I still go here" Bandlow have thoroughly dominated Dr. Clark's homework.

However, one of the most challenging courses for the juniors this year has been Modern European history with Dr. Clements. It's clear that this class is far more difficult than American History AP/Reg (same course) with Dr. Bailey. DBQ's and "unnecessarily" long reading assignments epitomize the class. With junior-class brains and scholarly dedication, though, these hurdles should be easily overcome.

Sophomores Open the Year With Action

by Daniel White
Staff Writer

The members of the sophomore class have been busy at work acclimating themselves to the new school year, new courses, and different teachers. First of all, the 10th-graders elected a new president, Adrian Carey, vice president, Drew Daniely, and treasurer, Holden Mobley, as well as student council officers, Matt Bellet, Naveen Chadavalava, John Donlon, Matt Bracy, Kevin Carr, Daniel Todd, and Mac Hudson.

In the areas of service, the sophomores are planning the annual trip to Six Flags Kentucky Kingdom. Led by class advisor Mr. Golenor, this trip is used to raise money for various projects.

Also in respect to service, Michael Reid was elected treasurer and Corbin Williams secretary of MBA's Hispanic Achievers, which promotes the Hispanic culture in the Nashville Community.

On September 14-16, the debaters traveled to Wake Forest, and Aaron Lutkowitz made it to the finals in extemporaneous speaking. Matt Vanek, Campbell Haynes, Patrick Lovett, and Wesley Wilson all helped contribute to MBA's Sweepstakes win, which means that, as a whole, MBA did better than the other schools represented.

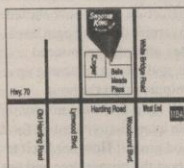
The golf team, which includes sophomores Tyler LeRoy, Alex Snow, Tyler Paslick and Overton Thompson, achieved a record of 5-5 for the 2007 season. Tyler Paslick and Tyler LeRoy made the top five on the squad and are going to state. Tyler LeRoy shot the low round of the year for our golf team when he shot 2 under par 70 at Henry Horton Golf Course in Columbia, TN in a winning effort against Marshall County High School.

Both the football and cross country teams are doing well. Both the junior varsity and varsity football teams are undefeated at the present moment and several sophomores played a substantial amount in the varsity game against Pope John Paul II Thursday, September 20, which was MBA's 1000th game.

Academically, the class of 2010 has begun the year in an excellent manner, with several sophomores with G.P.A.'s of 3.5 and higher and many taking advanced placement classes.

Also, MBA's class of '10 would like to welcome new sophomore teachers, Señora Lanigan, Spanish I and II, Señor Gray, Spanish I, and Mr. Tarkington, English II.

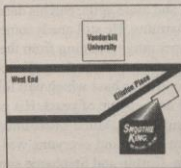
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African-American Studies Club Offers Findings

by William Davis
Staff Writer

In a recent meeting of the African-American Studies Club, Rasha Harvey presented to those present a brief poll that consisted of five simple questions which everyone was to answer within a short period. Listed below are the results from the 18 members who participated in this event:

1. Favorite Color?
11-blue, 3-black, 1-brown, 1-purple
2. Pizza or Chicken?
11-pizza, 7-chicken
3. In 2008, for whom would you vote?
18-Obama, 0-Romney, 0-Clinton, 0-Giuliani etc.
4. B.B. King or Ray Charles?
13-Ray Charles, 5-B.B King
5. Justice or Mercy?
10-Justice, 8-Mercy

18 participants

Now, with this five-question survey, I am asking the entire school to present their opinions by casting a vote upon each subject. Once the ballots are cast, they will be compared to that of the African American Studies Club.

Please send your votes to William Davis or Rasha Harvey. One ballot per student please.

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	Exp 09/01/2007	Exp 09/01/2007

The Science Department Keeps Moving

by Seth Akers-Campbell
Staff Writer

As the 2007-2008 school year kicks off, the MBA Science Department is preparing for what could be a very good next few years to come.

Possibly opening in the summer of 2009, the observatory on Long Mountain will potentially be a great asset to the science department. The observatory will feature remote access so that Astronomy classes will be able to gaze into the heavens without ever leaving The Hill. One ultra-powerful telescope expected to be located there will be able to fix all problems associated with the bending of light by the Earth's atmosphere, producing an image much clearer than the high-powered telescope currently located in Dr. Clark's Ingram room. MBA's current radio telescope will be moved to the new observatory.

In addition to the scientific features of the Long Mountain property,

the property will begin to host a variety of camps, with an included Camp Laney-style ropes course and cabins. The facility will host both MBA students and other MBA-sponsored groups, like Time to Rise and Backfield in Motion.

After last year's state championship and trip to the National Science Olympiad in Wichita, Kansas, the Red Army Corps of Engineers hopes to make a repeat trip to the national tournament, which is set to be hosted in Washington, D.C. this year. With the team's ongoing recruitment process, the aspiring scientists of I-15 hope to do better than last year, even with the loss of many key seniors. Dr. Marro leads this team.

Foreign Language Bids Goodbye and Hello

by Alvin Kim
Staff Writer

While the MBA foreign language department is extremely remorseful to say goodbye to Madame Drews and Dr. Springer, it happily greets the new teachers and changes to come. This year, MBA welcomes Ms. Joan Li, Mr. Jesse Gray, and Ms. Patsy Lanigan as new teachers to the department. Both Mr. Gray and Ms. Lanigan teach Spanish this year because of the colossal number of students who signed up for Spanish I, and Ms. Li teaches the newest language addition to the department, Chinese.

Mr. Gray, who received his Bachelor of Arts in Spanish and Psychology and a Master of Arts in Comparative Literature from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, said, "I am sure there are many reasons why so many students are taking Spanish, but I think the phenomenon can also be called a sign of the times. Spanish is everywhere!" With that being said, he will be teaching Spanish I, III, III AP, and IV AP along with newcomer, Ms. Lanigan, and veteran, Mrs. Claudia Villavicencio.

In addition, Ms. Li will head up the entire Chinese education system at MBA with a brave contingent of nine students in Chinese I and one student, Joshua Liang, in Chinese II.

There are also changes for both Latin and French students this year. Mrs. Christeson, who for the past several years has taught only Latin, will now be teaching French IV AP in place of Madame Drews.

Mr. Gaither and Dr. Seay continue to strengthen the Latin program with their helpful, 500-page tome for Latin III students. The foreign language department looks forward to another tremendous year.



Mr. Gray



Ms. Li



Ms. Lanigan

Balls of Fury Brings Us Ping Pong

by Michael Downing and Alan Schulman
Entertainment Editors



Fogler in *Balls of Fury*

Following the adventures of an over-weight, washed-up professional ping pong player played by Dan Fogler, *Balls of Fury* is just as entertaining as its title leads you to believe. Fogler is relatively new to the big screen, but his performance in this movie is anything but amateur. He plays an "athlete" entered to play against the world's greatest pongers in an underground tournament hosted by the eccentric Feng, Christopher Walken, who also gives a hilarious performance. Maggie Q, played by Maggie Wang, is an excellent supporting actress. She plays the extremely hot female, who ends up falling for the lead.

Many would argue that this movie is just another example of "stupid humor," and they are correct. However, one must remember that the movie is called *Balls of Fury*: what more can you expect? The plot is predictable, the script is cliché, and we loved every minute of it. If you're ever in need of a feel-good, thoughtless film, *Balls of Fury* is the movie for you. Go see it!



Tyler cracks a smile at Drake Memorial

Cross Country Is Enjoying Victories

by Dalton Fouts
Staff Writer

Having now competed in two major meets, Big Red Cross Country is officially in full stride. With practices having started in July, the team, under the leadership of seniors Tyler Ramsden, Daniel Givens, John Bibb, and Lindsay Bohannon, endured the triple-digit heat and crippling humidity of the brutal summer weather.

Much improved by the adverse training conditions, the MBA squad swept its first meet with Tyler Ramsden and juniors Baker Mulherin and Matt Ractliffe respectively taking first, second, and third.

The varsity runners continued their success the following week with a commendable 7th place at the Tennessee Classic, the largest athletic event in Tennessee high school sports, with an average time of 17:36. The JV runners attained runner-up status.

Most recently, the team competed in the A.F. Bridges where the Varsity and JV, both barely denied first place finishes, fared well against a wide range of competitors. Rallied by a spirited group of sophomore spectators, Tyler Ramsden placed 2nd overall in the varsity race while freshman Hayes McCord and sophomore Campbell Kinnard respectively achieved 1st and 3rd place finishes in the JV.

When asked his hopes for the season, Coach Pruitt responded, "While disappointed in the runner-up in the Bridges, we hope to place well in the Great America Cross Country Festival. We would hope that continued improvement would mean a good chance to win the Metro. It will take a team effort. Placing in the top 3 in the Region and State are optimistic goals, but reachable with continued improvement and injury recovery."

When Tyler Ramsden was asked his goals for the season, he replied, "Win the Olympics."



Seniors win!

The Service Club President Sits for an Interview: Johnny Mishu Talks with Dalton

by Dalton Fouts
Staff Writer

The Bell Ringer: The Service Club appears to be implementing a new system with small groups of students taking the reins for individual service projects. What exactly does this new set-up entail and what brought about this change?

Johnny Mishu: Each service project has its own project manager(s) that coordinate and plan the events. We think that this new set-up encourages more peer-peer interactions regarding service and subsequently leads to more student involvement.

BR: For once and for all, could you clarify the Club's service hour policy. Are all hours accumulated outside of MBA projects not recordable, or must one personally contact a member of the Service Club to have his hours validated?

JM: We are counting hours only for MBA projects and events. Hours accumulated outside of MBA are not usable. They can be used on college applications and resumés for prestigious societies such as the MLK society and Totomoi. We just cannot accept outside hours. There is no need to contact a member of the Service Club about outside-school hours because we do not take them.

BR: What is the reasoning behind this limitation?

JM: If we included every outside project that every person has been involved with over the past four years, the list would be way too long to keep up with. Also, keeping track of the authenticity/record of the hours would be an even bigger hassle.

BR: What would you say to a student who wants to become involved in service

projects but is unsure of which to undertake?

JM: I would try everything to start off. Dip your feet into as many different projects as possible. Then, you can figure out what your true passions are.

BR: What new projects, if any, does the Service Club plan to pursue this year?

JM: We will not be having any new year-long projects; however, we are planning numerous one-time collaborations with the Harpeth Hall service club, events such as the Graffiti Paint-Out, a Habitat for Humanity project, and a fund raiser for Invisible Children.

BR: What is this Rotary-Interact Club?

JM: Mr. Jonathan Sawyer will have more to say about this later. This is mostly his project.

BR: In what direction would you like to see the club headed? How would you like the MBA student body to view service?

JM: Instead of overloading popular projects like Soup Kitchen and Special Olympics with 50 people, half of whom do not actively participate, we want a core group of guys for each project. This is where the project manager comes in, choosing his select few to lead the project. I do not want students to think of service as a chore, or an activity to put on a resumé. Giving back to the community needs to be something that all students are excited about doing. Also, some students do not know that these events are tons of fun. If you like sports, you will love Special Olympics. If you love cooking, there is Soup Kitchen. If you like interacting with kids and like to teach, we have numerous tutoring programs such as Sylvan Park and Preston-Taylor homes.

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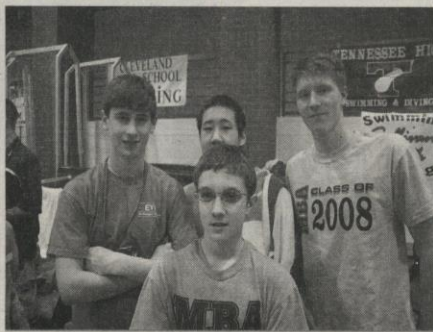
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Swimming Coach Dobbs Talks with the Bell Ringer

by Pat Killian
Staff Writer

Football is not the only sport at MBA with a new coach this year; the Big Red swim team is under new leadership as well. Michael Dobbs, a successful swimmer himself back in his day and the former head swim coach of Ensworth High School, brings to the growing program many years of experience and a decidedly more intense attitude than has been present in years past. Coach



Corbin, Alvin, and Curtis practice for the new season

Dobbs kindly took some time out of his schedule to answer a few questions about his plans for the upcoming season.

The Bell Ringer: First off, what brought you to MBA? Do you like what you've seen of the school so far?

Coach Dobbs: My original plan was not to coach HS & MS swimming this season. After coaching two years at Ensworth, it just didn't make sense to be coaching at another school. Toward the end of the summer I received a call from MBA's new Athletic Director, Mr. Eddie Guth, who mentioned to me that they were without a swim coach and asked if I would be interested in talking with them. The opportunity was too good to pass up. Yes, I am very impressed with MBA. MBA had me at "Gentleman, Scholar, Athlete." It's not just jargon; it's real. You can tell that MBA practices what they preach.

BR: What are your goals (on a win-loss or per individual level) for the team this year?

CD: I really do enjoy winning. Of course, I'd like to see MBA win our division, then win Regionals, and finally make some noise at State. But the reality is in order to accomplish those goals we need to develop team chemistry. Simply put, we need to become one unit and create a team identity, despite the two very different groups of boys, the year-round, USS swimmers and the HS only swimmers, on the team. If we can do that, it's all

downhill from there. To go a little further, I experienced last year what happens when a team lacks Chemistry. While coaching Ensworth, we had two meets where on paper our team did not appear to be the superior team, and yet we still won both

meets. We were able to win those meets because our team had good chemistry; they all showed up and supported each other.

Our opponents were both missing key swimmers who decided they had better things to do with their time. In HS swimming everyone and every race matters—it's what I love about coaching. Everyone scores! Everyone is needed! No one watches from the bench.

BR: Do you have any larger designs for the entire program?

CD: I'm here to support MBA in their desire to build a successful and sustainable swim team. After meeting with the administration, I understood swimming was important to the school, and they wanted to see the program continue to be successful. Personally, I think there is a real opportunity over time to build a team where USS swimming and HS swimming become one. This, of course, is only a vision today, but with additional facilities and coaching, USS swimming and HS swimming can become more closely entwined in Middle Tennessee—similar to how it works in colleges. I could go on about this, but let me simply say I'd like to see MBA swimming be one more reason why a boy would want to come to MBA.

BR: Do you believe your practices will be more intense than in years past?

CD: I'm big on quality over quantity—99% correct is 100% wrong. I'm a believer in making sure everyone knows the basics; knowing how to start, turn, breathe and finish correctly makes a big difference. The intensity of practice really

will be determined on the individual level. I enjoy doing things that are "out of the box" but very effective. The objective is to help everyone achieve his potential.

BR: As a coach, how do you like to balance in-pool training and dry land (weights and running)?

CD: We will spend one day a week out of the pool working on quickening reaction time and developing more speed. SPEED, SPEED, SPEED...okay, I took that from Rocky II, but you cannot have too much speed. I also like working on ankle flexibility to improve kicking. Everyone will have a big kick at the end of his races. Oh, I've been known to throw in push-ups during swim sprints...these are fun!

BR: Do you think the new State Tournament location in Knoxville (moved there from downtown) is a good move?

CD: Great question, we will just have to see. Everyone will be experiencing it for the first time together.

BR: In the world of high school swimming, a debate is raging over whether or not year-round swimmers should be allowed to compete in high school competitions as well. What is your stance on this issue?

CD: As I said before, I'd like to see USS swimming become more entwined with HS swimming. My personal opinion is that this will happen some day. Swimming is growing and becoming more popular in Middle Tennessee. It is simply a matter of time before additional facilities are built and teams are created. A Big Red USS Swim Team? Perhaps some day.

BR: Welcome to MBA.

Write for the Bell Ringer!

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monthly columnists!

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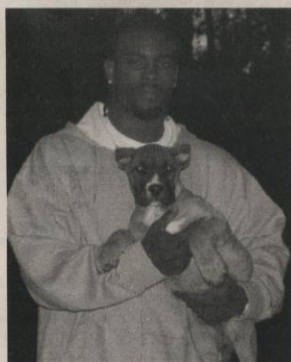
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Antiques & Flowers

Vick's Venal Hobby

Continued from p. 2

of operating an unlawful six-year long interstate dog fighting operation, known in dog fighting circles as "Bad Newz Kennels". By mid-August, Vick and his three co-conspirators had agreed to separate plea deals with federal authorities. On August 24, Michael Vick pleaded guilty to one count of felony conspiracy to an interstate dog fighting ring, as well as



Vick and an innocent, pre-fight

admitting that most of the finances and supplies had come from him. However, he denied any involvement in side betting on fights or killing dogs himself. At his December 10 trial, Vick is expected to receive between 12-18 months in prison. In addition, the NFL suspended him without pay, calling his acts "cruel and reprehensible".

The public outcry over the incident has been profound. Vick's sponsors, including Nike, Coke, EA

Sports, and PowerAde, have either revoked or suspended their contracts with him. Most of his items have gone off the shelves, and some of his footballs have been used as chew toys at animal shelters. Most Americans were horrified at the charges, as many people simply cannot imagine hurting dogs or killing them outright. However, many writers urge Americans not to judge Vick so quickly: they say he comes from a different background, one which many people can't or won't understand, and that his friends are really the problem.

Well, all of this may be true. Mick Vick has to know as a professional athlete that he has to separate himself from his childhood friends and bad influences. Much like Pacman Jones, his inability to do so cost him money and took away his ability to play professional football. And, the saddest thing of all may be that Michael Vick, having signed the largest contract in NFL history, risked all of it for a measly few thousand dollars.

Sports Stats

compiled by Kyle Brantley
Staff Writer

Cross Country

Top Runners

1. Tyler Ramsden- 17:07-'Nough Said-1st and 2nd place finishes
2. Michael Peters- 17:27-Freshman phenom-2 top ten finishes
3. Baker Mulherin- 17:40-Dynamic Duo (Part 1)-a 2nd place finish
4. Matt Ractliffe- 17:45-Dynamic Duo (Part 2)-a 3rd place finish
5. Lindsay Bohannon-17:49-Steady Senior-an 8th place finish
6. Wiley Hunt- 17:57-Sophomore Sensation-Varsity runner in all 3 races
7. Hayes McCord- 18:27-Boy Wonder-Two top ten finishes in JV races, including a 1st place finish
8. David Dalton- 18:30-Accomplished Athlete-One top twenty finish-Played 4 sports last year(Cross Country, Hockey, Track, Lacrosse)
9. Taylor Land- 18:40-Whiz Kid-High quality varsity runner

Team Finishes

- | | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Drake Memorial- | 1st |
| Tennessee Classic- | 7th |
| AF Bridges- | 2nd |

Upcoming meet

District Championship 10/02

Golf

Quote from the coach—"We had a 5-5 season in dual play and in tournament play we entered two tournaments-the Stan McNabb, where we finished 1st, and the Preview, where we finished 6th. John Burch, Jimmy Anderson, Rob Broadhurst, and Daniel Leader have been integral elements in the success of this team and the development of the golf program since the 7th grade."

The Glorious Golfers-

Seniors- John Burch, Jimmy Anderson, Rob Broadhurst, and Daniel Leader
Juniors- Nicholas Concepcion and Robert McNeilly
Sophomores- Tyler LeRoy, Tyler Paslick, Alex Snow, and Overton Thompson
Freshmen- Cody Fisher and Zach Turner

Team Finishes

Ensworth-W
Stan McNabb Invitational-1st
The Preview-6th
Father Ryan-L
Baylor-L
McCallie-L
Marshall County-W
BGA-L
BA-W
USN-W
Clarksville-L
Region Tournament-4th

Upcoming Event-

State Tournament- 10/02

Football

Record→5-0

Antioch	W 38-13
Independence	W 21-0
Baylor	W 24-0
Hillsboro	W17-12
JPII	W 56-14

Upcoming Game-

Ensworth (Homecoming)-10/05

Passing

Spencer Wise	32 for 53, 394 yards, 1 TD- 78 yards/game
--------------	---

Receiving

Andrew Harris	21 catches, 214 yards, long-35 yards
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Rushing

E.J. Vinsang-	78 carries, 572 yards, 8 TDs, 1 2pt-7.3 yards/carry
Christian Waddey	44 carries, 357 yards, 1 TD-8.1 yards/carry
Ben Bartholomew-	25 carries, 226 yards, 2 TDs- 9.0 yards/carry
Spencer Wise-	29 carries, 120 yards, 3 TDs- 4.1 yards/carry

Defense

Alfonza Knight	16 tackles and 9 assists
Nathan Wade	15 tackles and 6 assists
Ben Bartholomew	14 tackles
Matt Ferrell	14 tackles
Alfonza Knight	3.5 sacks
Scott Bubis	2.5 sacks
Matt Ferrell	2 sacks
Tee Stumb	2 interceptions
Brad Bars, Andy McLaughlin, and Nathan Wade-	1 interception

Special Teams

Ben Bartholomew-	4 punts, 178 yards, 44.5 avg, 58 long
Andrew Harris-	4 punts, 163 yards, 40.8 avg, 60 long
Andrew Fletcher-	5/7 field goals, 71.4%, Long-47

Punt Returns

Jas Radar	3 returns, 28 yards, 9.3 avg, Long-14
Tyler Franks	1 return, 43 yards, 43.0 avg, 1 TD, Long-43

Kick Returns

E.J. Vinsang	3 returns, 138 yards, 46.0 avg, 1 TD, Long-90
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Football Info from The Tennessean

All stats and rankings are in the Mid-state

1. BA	
2. Riverdale	
3. MBA	
E.J. Vinsang	18 th best running back, 16 th most points
Ben Bartholomew	5 th best punter
Andrew Fletcher	2 nd best kicker

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Fall CD Reviews

by Bennett Davidson and Will Orman
Staff Writer and Editor-in-Chief

CARIBOU andorra



Caribou - Andorra

Are you tired of listening to the same old tunes day in and day out? Are the same bands boring you with their tired chords and familiar lyrics? Fall is the season of change: the leaves fall off the trees, the bears dig their holes for hibernation, and Caribou's new album, *Andorra*, could help you transition into your new musical phase!

Caribou sounds like The Beach Boys twisted up into a more experimental indie rock band. The album was released this summer on August 21, and is becoming very popular on the music scene.

The album opens up with a rocking song called "Melody Day" with a distant drum sound and a greasy guitar hook. The vocals on this track, and the whole album, are soft, smooth, and distant. The music is a soothing form of rock with an inoffensive, pillowy punch of messy percussion and catchy lo-fi guitars.

The album includes many tracks that feature flutes and other wind instruments, familiar to any Caribou fan from the other albums. The flute sound rises above and gives a structure to parts of the other music.

Jeremy Greenspan from Junior Boys helped to produce the fourth track called, "She's the One," which is very unique in that background vocals provide the basis and the rhythm for the lead vocals, taking the place of a guitar or other instrument. *Andorra* is very easy and pleasing to listen to; perfect for long drives, tough nights of homework, and just general relaxing. So, for this fall season, change with the leaves, dig with the bears, and listen to some great new music.

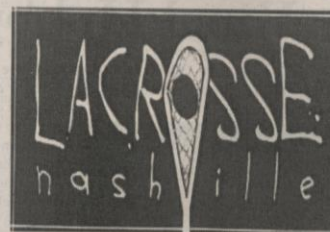
The Go! Team - Proof of Youth

The Go! Team exploded onto the independent music scene with a gritty, powerful indie rock album called *Thunder, Lightning, Strike*, which was primarily the solo project of Brighton's Ian Parton, who used samples from old records to compile a brilliant sound collage that topped many reviewers' end-of-year lists.

However, he got into a good deal of legal trouble for failing to cite his sources, so the new album, *Proof of Youth*, is somewhat less sample-based but doesn't lose any of the punch of the debut.

The Go! Team's style consists primarily of catchy guitar riffs accented with horns and a rapper buried into the mix, so that none of the rawness of the debut would be lost. Along with the band rapper, known as Ninja, guests include Solex, Bonde do Role's Marina Ribatski, and Public Enemy's Chuck D, who provides his distinct style to highlight "Flashlight Fight."

Although some of the songs are derivative and similar to tracks from the debut (for example, the minor key horn-based song is quite popular on this release), there are no clunkers, and every track is bound to get stuck in your head at some point. This album may be better suited to the warmer months, but it can still provide an upbeat soundtrack to anything active you do this season. Other highlights include single "Grip Like a Vice," "Titanic Vandalism," and "Universal Speech."



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Pinback - Autumn of the Seraphs

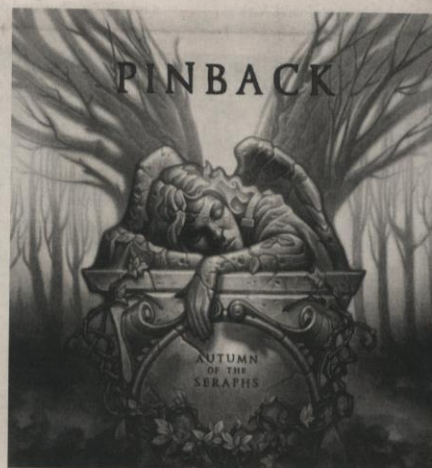
Pinback seem to have started a trend with the season-based album titles, after 2004's *Summer in Abaddon* and now this year's *Autumn*, and upon listening to each, any listener will find that the title rings true. While *Summer* was triumphant and experimental, *Autumn* is transitional and more content in being a grower.

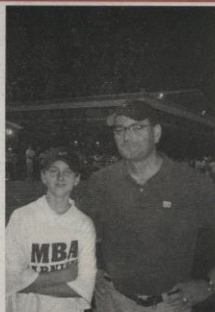
The album kicks off with "From Nothing to Nowhere," a straightforward rocker that fits snugly into a three-minute pop song format and provides the most energy on the album.

Although most of these songs rely solely on Pinback's distinctive mechanical guitar style, as a contrast to the instruments they had been adding to each album, some of the songs dance around a keyboard riff, such as addictive standout "Good to Sea" and five-minute "Bouquet." Pinback continue to emphasize their mix of synthetic and real drums, and even when a song starts out sounding like another slow in-between-

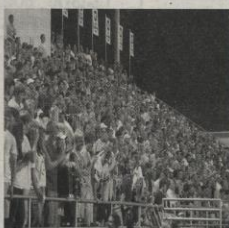
good-songs track, it is sure to build to something more worthwhile.

While this album seems to be a settling for the members of Pinback in terms of instrumental diversity, each song has much more distinctive sections. While several tracks on *Summer* meandered for four minutes on slow piano and reserved vocals, many of the tracks on *Autumn* surprise and entertain the listener even after multiple listens. Other high points include "Barnes," "Subbing for Eden," and "Devil You Know."





Carnival = Class



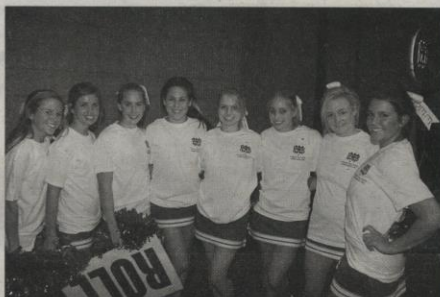
Hundreds show up for Hillsboro Game



MBA vs. PJP II



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